



# The PSC Pulse

## SEARUC IN GEORGIA



*Opening session: some of the GA PSC staff*

More than 250 people gathered at beautiful Lake Oconee in Greensboro, Georgia June 11-14, 2017 for the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners under the theme “Leading the Way-Nuclear, Solar, and Leadership.” SEARUC **President Stan Wise** of Georgia presided over the meeting.

The gathering heard from keynote speakers Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Colette Honorable and Federal Communications Commissioner Mignon Clyburn. Conference sessions included a range of panels covering Nuclear Energy, Broadband, Renewable Energy, Water, Natural Gas, Solar Energy, Natural Gas Infrastructure and

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- EPD Town Hall Meeting
- Award received
- Dig Safely Month
- At the Whitehouse
- Announcements throughout

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION HOSTS ALBANY TOWN HALL MEETING**



**Commissioner Doug Everett** attended one of several town hall meetings hosted by the Environmental Protection Division. The EPD was seeking input from citizens regarding the Plant Mitchell closing, specifically concerning how the utility plans to deal with the almost two million tons of coal ash waste stored in the plant’s three coal ash ponds.



*Plant Mitchell*

**SEARUC (CONTINUED)**



*L-R Jeff Baggett, Michelle Theibert, Jack Hudson, Daphne Jones and Tom Bond*

Pipeline Safety as well as a discussion of the Trump Administration’s effect on utility strategic planning. One of the panel sessions included “**Nuclear: Where Do We Go From Here?**” which **Commissioner Stan Wise** served as moderator.

Officials from the Georgia Power Company, the Nuclear Energy Institute and the University of Georgia took part in a panel discussion on the issues facing new nuclear reactors in Georgia and South Carolina, and the long term prospects for



*Commission Chair Stan Wise moderates panel*

developing nuclear technology and integrating the lessons learned from the current new nuclear projects.



*Commissioner Bubba McDonald on panel*

Another panel session “**Solar: Solar, Solar, Where Art Thou Solar?**” was moderated by Ed Finley of the North Carolina Public Utilities Commission. The panel included our own **Commissioner Bubba McDonald** and representatives of the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA), Duke Energy and Strata Solar who discussed the different ways that solar power is growing across the Southeast.



*Rob Trokey, Electric Unit, enjoying the Welcome Reception*

## COMMISSIONER TIM ECHOLS APPOINTED AS VICE-CHAIR OF NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL UTILITY REGULATORS ASSOCIATION



National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) appointed **Commissioner Tim Echols** as Vice-chair of the Nuclear Issues-Waste Disposal Subcommittee. NARUC President Robert Powelson of Pennsylvania announced the appointment on April 21, 2017.

Echols succeeds **Commissioner Lauren “Bubba” McDonald** as Vice-chair of the subcommittee.

NARUC has also appointed Commissioner Echols to the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment.

## COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF ATTEND NARUC SUMMER POLICY SUMMIT

Commissioners and staff attended the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Summer Policy Summit held this summer in San Diego, California. The NARUC Policy Summit was four days of focused discussions on energy, telecommunications and other utility issues. President Robert F. Powelson, of Pennsylvania, presided over the event and served as moderator for the opening general session, which focused on innovative technologies across energy sectors. Representatives from American Water, the Nuclear Energy Institute, PG&E Corporation and Sunrun offered various sector-focused perspectives.



*Commissioners Wise, Everett and McDonald at the Policy Summit*

Other general sessions underscored the importance of innovation, the state of America’s infrastructure and bringing veterans into the utility work space. Our own **Bill Edge** won the NARUC app contest with the most points and received a \$150 Visa gift card!



*President Powelson of NARUC and Bill Edge, Public Information Officer of GPSC.*

## CHERYL VINSON RECEIVES AWARD FOR HER PERFORMANCE IN THE FY2017 HUMAN RESOURCES ASSESSMENT



*Terry Pritchett, Chuck Eaton, Cheryl Vinson and Christopher Nunn*

On May 12, Our very own Human Resources Officer, **Cheryl Vinson** accepted the Human Resources Assessment Award presented by the Department of Administrative Services. Thanks to her involvement, the GPSC has shown itself as a model for others to follow in Classification Management. Her diligence in ensuring effective implementation of HR policies and practices help our organization attract, develop and retain the talent needed to realize our core mission. Well done Cheryl!

**Next Issue:**

**November 2017**

**Don’t forget to send us news as you get it!**

## COMMISSION VERIFIES EXPENSES FOR GEORGIA POWER'S 16TH NUCLEAR PLANT VOGTLE CONSTRUCTION MONITORING REPORT

### COMMISSION TAKES PART IN PROCLAMATION FOR DIG SAFELY MONTH



Commissioners **Stan Wise**, **Lauren “Bubba” McDonald**, and **Doug Everett** joined Governor **Nathan Deal** in proclaiming April 2017 as “Dig Safely Month in Georgia” for a photo op at the State Capitol. Also taking part were Commission staff members **Bill Edge**, **Marilyn Morris**, **Lynn Page** and **Ben Stair**.

### CONDOLENCES

♥ Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to **Janice Sears in Natural Gas and Stephanie Sears in Consumer Affairs** in the passing of **Michael Patterson** on May 21. Michael was Janice’s dear brother and Stephanie’s Uncle.

♥ **Cathy Nesbitt, Assistant in GUFPA** lost her mother **Christine Marie Whitney** on April 30. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and the family as they go through this difficult time.

The Commission on August 15 took two actions related to the Plant Vogtle Nuclear Power Construction Project. First, the Commission approved \$222 million in expenditures on the Project for the period July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Total capital costs of the project are \$3.68 billion as of December 31, 2016. In a related issue, the Commission approved on a vote of 4-1 a motion by **Commission Chairman Stan Wise** which requires Georgia Power Company to file in the Company’s next Vogtle Construction Monitoring Report the Company’s intention to proceed with the Plant Vogtle construction project. It also



*Vogtle Unit 3 containment vessel*

requires the Company to address 14 issues listed in the motion. Among the questions the motion asks the company to address are:

1. Should the Commission verify and approve expenditures made between January 1st and June 30th?

2. What is the company’s new estimate to complete the project and what is the new schedule for commercial operation of the two units if the Commission decides to go forward with one or both units? Georgia Power is expected to file its 17<sup>th</sup> Vogtle Construction Monitoring report later this month on August 31.

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## COMMISSIONERS ATTEND GROUNDBREAKING FOR ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE SOLAR FACILITY

**Commissioner Lauren “Bubba” McDonald** and **Commissioner Doug Everett** joined representatives from Georgia Power, Robins Air Force Base, local business and government for a news conference at the Robins Museum of Aviation on May 17 to announce the approval of the Warner Robins Air Force Base Solar Facility. The Commission on May 17 unanimously approved the largest solar facility in Georgia that will provide power to a Georgia military base. The Commission has been instrumental in approving more than 2500 Megawatts of solar power to Georgia Power’s portfolio.



*L-R Norrie McKensie, Commissioner McDonald and Commissioner Everett*

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## STAFF PARTICIPATES IN SOLAR POWER SUMMIT

On May 11 **Jamie Barber**, Manager of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the Commission, attended the Solar Power Southeast Summit held at the Lowes Atlanta Hotel. She participated in a panel discussion on Distributed Generation and Net Metering.



*Jamie Barber (arrow) takes part in panel discussion*

## THE FY 2017 BOOKS HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR THE PSC!

**Angela Hwang** and **Winifred Gaines** did a great job closing the books and making sure all the expenses were booked properly. You probably wonder what we actually do besides travel vouchers and issue checks.

The PSC maintains four sets of books: Administration, Facility Protection, Utilities Regulation and overall Agency. We book the expenses in 30 different 'Object Classes' or categories and have three Revenue streams to support our Commission (State, Federal and Other). The Expenses can not exceed our Revenues.



*Terry Pritchett, CFO*

The total expenses for FY2017 were \$10,948,399.

Personnel Services for our Staff were \$9,140,610 (83.5 %). We had 82 Staff members on June 30, 2016 and we closed out FY 2017 with 80 staff members. During FY 2017, we hired 5 employees and 7 left the PSC.

Building Rent was \$670,072 (6.1%), \$360,928 (3.3%) for the STARS program funded by Bonds leaving \$776,789 (7.1%) for all other expenses.

Revenues were \$9,121,934 (State), \$1,333,900 (Federal) and \$493,226 (Other). When everything was balanced to the 'penny' we had \$661 of surplus State Funds that will be returned to the State Treasury.

We are now in to FY2018 with eleven months to go before we perform the next annual closing!

Thanks!

Terry

## COMMISSIONER MCDONALD'S INVITATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE



On June 28th, **Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald** attended an Energy meeting in D.C. at the request of President Trump, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry and Administrator Scott Pruitt of the Environmental Protection Agency. Senior White House staff and members of the President's cabinet



met with Governors, state officials and tribal leaders to discuss removing burdensome regulations that hinder energy infrastructure growth and to encourage energy development.



In June, **Commissioner Doug Everett** is shown here with Fred Sumter visiting the Georgia Power Flint River Hydro Plant.

### **MONIQUE'S LITTLE STAR MALACHI**



Many of you may see **Monique Andrew's** little guy Malachi in the office on any given day. His smile is infectious and he definitely has a spring in his step! Malachi, now 7, has been playing baseball since he was 5 years old. He is currently on the Rookie League Milford Orioles as the 3rd baseman and catcher while Mom Monique is the team Mom!



## **COMMISSION HOSTS GATHERING OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PIPELINE SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES**



The Commission hosted the Southern Regional Annual Conference of the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) in Savannah on April 24-28, 2017. **Commission Chairman Stan Wise** and **Commission Pipeline Safety Director Michelle Thebert** welcomed the attendees to the conference. Those in attendance heard reports from the states in the southeastern region, attended workshops on safety, risk management and received the latest developments and initiatives in pipeline safety on both the national and state level. Federal officials from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration also provided updates.

### **WE HAVE A NEW FACE ON THE TEAM!**

Welcome new employee **Dhwani Chheda** to the Natural Gas unit as a Financial Analyst.

### **COMMISSIONER WISE WELCOMES THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM MEMBERS**



In May, **Commission Chairman Stan Wise** welcomed visitors from nine different countries including Israel, Egypt, Malawi. The discussion centered around the review of U.S. national energy and climate policy challenges and international cooperative efforts to develop secure and transparent global energy markets. The group also discussed state and local energy initiatives that use alternative energy technologies to promote U.S. energy independence and responses to the impacts of climate change.

**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY!**



**30 YEARS**

Rachael Perry (10/1)  
Telecom

**20 YEARS**

Winifred Gaines (11/16)  
Administration

**15 YEARS**

John Kaduk (9/1)  
EERE

**10 YEARS**

Daphne Jones (9/1)  
Pipeline Safety

Chris Swann (9/1)  
Pipeline Safety

Tara Surratt (10/1)  
Natural Gas

**FAREWELL AND  
WELCOME**



**Bethany Walker**, Assistant to Commissioner Tim Echols left the commission to take a position in the corporate world. We will miss her and wish her all the best.



**Faith Henning** returned as Commissioner Tim Echols Assistant and we are excited to have her back!



Krystle Edge, daughter of Public Information Officer **Bill Edge**, and Johnathan Chase were married on April 25, 2017, at McDaniel Farm Park in Duluth, Georgia.



**Stephanie Sears**, Consumer Affairs, was married on July 17, 2017. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Billups!

**Janice Sears**, Assistant in Natural Gas is the proud mother of Stephanie.



Celeste Brewster, daughter of **Tonika Starks**, graduated Langston Hughes High School and is attending the University of West Georgia for Nursing.



Yolanda Clay's daughter Nadia will be attending Brenau University Women's College. She received partial scholarships for track and academics and plans to major in the Nursing/PreMed program.



**Onterio Johnson's** oldest daughter Jelani Johnson is now attending Graduate school at Auburn University majoring in Audiology. His youngest daughter Courtney Johnson will be attending the University of South Alabama majoring in Speech Pathology.

# COMMISSION CALENDAR

## August 2017

1— Administrative Session  
10— Committee Meetings

15— Administrative Session

31— Committee Meetings

## September 2017

4— Holiday  
5—Administrative Session

14—Committee Meetings

19—Administrative Session

28—Committee Meetings

## October 2017

3—Administrative Session  
9—Holiday

12—Committee Meetings

17—Administrative Session



## HOLIDAYS COMING UP!



**Monday, September 4th**



**Monday, October 9th**

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## COMMISSIONERS

Stan Wise , Chairman  
Tim G. Echols, Vice Chair  
Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Jr.  
Doug Everett  
Chuck Eaton

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